

Application No.: 09/606,350
Office Action Dated: June 20, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry of this response and reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified patent application are respectfully requested.

Claims 21-23, 25-27, 29, 31, 34, 35, 39-85, and 87- 95 were pending. Claims 56, 92, 94, and 95 have been amended herein. Claim 93 has been canceled. No claims have been added. Therefore, following entry of the present amendment, 21-23, 25-27, 29, 31, 34, 35, 39-85, 87-92, 94 and 95 will be pending in the present application.

Claims 56, 70, 71, and 89 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,737,491 to Allen et al. ("Allen").

Claims 21-23, 25-27, 29, 31, 34, 35, 39-55, 75-85, 87, 88, 90-92, 94, and 95 were deemed allowable in the Office Action. Claims 57-69, 72, 73, and 93 were objected to, but deemed allowable if re-written in independent form. Application would like to thank the Examiner for recognizing the allowability of these claims.

Claim 56 is the only independent claim that has been rejected. The limitations of claim 93, which depended from claim 56, have been incorporated into claim 56 and claim 93 has been canceled. Consequently, as indicated by the Office Action, amended claim 56 is in condition for allowance. In addition, Applicant submits that claims 70, 71, and 89, which depend from amended claim 56, also are in condition for allowance. Claims 92, 94, and 95 have been amended to correct a typographical error.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is patentably distinguished over the asserted prior art references and that the application stands in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that all pending claims be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

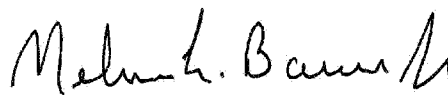
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CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Mel Barnes at (301) 581-0081, to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic interview.

Authorization is hereby granted to charge any deficiencies in fees, including any fees for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), to Deposit Account 50-0687. Please credit any overpayment in fees to the same deposit account.

Date: July 3, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melvin L. Barnes, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

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